GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5604
ANSWERED ON:07.04.2017
Deaths due to Air Pollution
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether people are dying prematurely due to air pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of people who died due to air pollution in various cities of the country including those in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi during the last three years; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)
(a) & (b): As informed by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), reports of World Health Organization (WHO) and State Global Air 2017 by Health Effects Institute & Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation, USA indicate that ambient particulate matter is a risk factor for total deaths from all causes for all ages and genders. The exposure to air pollution is associated with breathing and respiratory problems, aggravation of existing respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, adverse effects on the immune system, damage to the lung tissue and carcinogenesis. Several epidemiological studies have shown an association between particulate air pollution and exacerbations of illness in people with respiratory disease as well as rise in the number of deaths from cardiovascular and respiratory disease among older people.
(c): There is no conclusive data available across the country to establish number of people who died due to air pollution.
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(d): As informed by Central Pollution Control Board, steps taken by the Government include:
i. Directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 regarding Effective Movement of Traffic at Busy Intersections on 01.11.2016 to Delhi and 11 districts of NCR States;

ii. Directions under Section 18(1) (b) of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 regarding prevention and control of air pollution in non-attainment cities and towns on 01.07.2016 to 18 SPCBs and 2 PCCs.

iii. Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards envisaging 12 pollutants;

iv. Introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like gaseous fuel, ethanol blend, etc.;

v. Implementation of Bharat Stage-IV (BS-IV) norms in 70 selected cities and universalization of the same by 2017;

vi. Directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 regarding Control of open burning, construction activities and watering of road sides, etc. in NCR on 02.11.2016 to Delhi and NCR.

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